



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-04-197

PSC SETS PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE IN EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC RATE CASE

Jefferson City (May 11, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has established the intervention deadline and hearing schedule in an electric rate case filed by The Empire District Electric Company (Empire). Empire is seeking to increase annual electric revenues by approximately \$38.3 million.

The Commission has established the deadline for those parties wishing to intervene and participate in this rate case. Applications must be sent no later than May 25, 2004, to the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: James C. Swearengen, Esq., Brydon, Swearengen & England, 312 East Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Public Service Commission.

Hearings in the electric rate request are scheduled to begin on November 29, 2004, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. Hearings will continue through December 17, 2004, if necessary. The Governor Office Building meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearings.

The Commission will hold local public hearings in this rate case. Times, dates and locations will be announced by the Commission in a separate order.

On April 30, 2004, The Empire District Electric Company filed an electric rate case with the Public Service Commission seeking to increase annual electric revenues by approximately \$38.3 million. The Company states that for the average residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours of electricity, the proposed increase would be approximately \$13.44 a month.

The Empire District Electric Company serves approximately 136,900 electric customers in the Missouri counties of Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone and Taney.

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